

FLOOR STATEMENT FOR THE  
DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT  
July 21, 2005

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M. President, I rise today to introduce the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This bill, which is the latest version of legislation Senator Brownback and I have been pushing for almost six months, will provide the tools and authorizations and put forth the policies necessary to stop the genocide in Darfur. This bill also has support in the House, where it has been introduced by Representatives Hyde, Payne and others.

M. President, Sudan is in the news today because of Secretary Rice's trip, and because of the rough treatment her entourage has received.

But let's not lose sight of what has happened in Sudan over the last two years, and what is still happening. Two million Darfurian civilians have been displaced from their homes. 1.8 million have been forced into camps in Darfur. There are 200,000 Darfur refugees in Chad. Hundreds of thousands have died, with some estimates up to 400,000. The Government of Sudan and the janjaweed militias it supports are responsible for systematic, targeted and premeditated violence, including murder and rape.

M. President, it was one year ago tomorrow that the Senate recognized these atrocities as genocide. One long, horrible, violent, tragic year for the people of Darfur.

M. President, we can stop this genocide, and we know how to do it. It just takes the will. Three months ago, the Senate passed the Darfur Accountability Act as an amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations bill. Despite overwhelming bipartisan support, it was stripped out in conference. Meanwhile, the genocide continued and now we are forced to revisit many of the same issues.

First, it is time we put real pressure on the Government of Sudan. While I welcome Secretary Rice's trip to Sudan, and Deputy Secretary Zoellick's two trips, diplomacy only goes so far. When the world threatens sanctions, Khartoum moderates its behavior. This bill calls for a UN Security Council resolution to impose real sanctions on the Government of Sudan.

Second, we need boots on the ground. When I visited Darfur in August last year, there were only a couple hundred African Union troops on the ground. There are now more than 3,000. But this number is far from adequate to patrol a region the size of Texas. There are over 50,000 police officers in Texas, yet we are still struggling to deploy 7,000 AU soldiers in Darfur, where genocide and civil war are raging, and where transportation and communications are limited.

The AU has been effective where it is deployed and I applaud the AU's leadership on this issue. But we have to be realistic about what they are up against. They need an explicit mandate to protect civilians and they need much more support.

With my colleagues, Senators DeWine, Durbin, Brownback and Obama, we have passed a series of amendments providing assistance to the AU. This has been used to provide housing and other basic needs for the troops – but it is not enough, even to provide shelter for forces scheduled to arrive this summer.

We also have to expand the kind of assistance we are providing. The African Union forces need help with basic command and control, operational planning and intelligence. NATO assistance needs to be broad, and it needs to begin immediately.

M. President, this is not just an African problem. The AU's challenge is our challenge. If they cannot stop the genocide and bring peace to Darfur, then we will have failed. History will judge us. We are the superpower with the capacity to intervene. If genocide is allowed to continue, it is our moral failure.

Third, M. President, we need to extend the current arms embargo, which covers the Government of Sudan, but only in Darfur. The Government of Sudan has armed the janjaweed militias to the teeth, and it is a threat to civilians throughout the country. The only answer is to keep weapons out of the government's hands.

Fourth, there must be accountability. This bill authorizes the President to impose sanctions against those responsible for genocide.

It also requires that, 30 days after we learn the names of those the UN has identified as having committed atrocities, the President report to Congress on whether he is sanctioning those people and the reasons for his decision.

M. President, this is not about the past. Those who have committed genocide are still doing so. While we debate this legislation, brutal killers continue to terrorize the people of Darfur with impunity. They must be named, they must be sanctioned, and they must be brought to justice.

And, fifth, M. President, we need a Special Presidential Envoy. Secretary Rice and Deputy Secretary Zoellick simply cannot devote themselves full time to this crisis.

A high-profile envoy will make sustain the pressure on the Government, get the UN Security Council to act, keep track of what the African Union really needs to be effective and accelerate NATO involvement, and make sure that peace talks with the Darfur rebels don't drift. A Special Envoy will be able to visit all of Darfur, not just the camps that have been cleaned up for visiting VIPs. And a Special Envoy will be able to address related problems, from northern Uganda to Sudan's troubled East.

We can do all of this. We just need the political will. But, M. President, that has always been the problem. From Cambodia to the Balkans to Rwanda, we failed to act or acted too late. And this time, we can't even claim not to know what is happening. We know all too well.

We can't claim that we haven't had the time to act. It's been a year since we declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide. And we can't claim that we are not responsible. What greater responsibility can there be than to stop a genocide?

M. President, we're out of excuses, and we're out of time. I hope this bipartisan bill and its House counterpart are quickly passed. *[I urge my colleagues to support this bill.]*

Thank you, M. President. I yield the floor.